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The C.I.A. Activities

Fred J. Cook on "C.I.A. Activities" (The Nation Magazine, June 24, 1961), for the first time, as the editor of the Nation points out, has assembled in detail the more important activities of this super-secret, policy-making, Mafia-like agency of the U. S. government.

In this account you learn why John Foster Dulles induced Chiang Kai-shek to send his "blue" troops to Quemoy and Matsu, two small islands within rifle range of mainland China; the story behind Quemoy, how we drifted close to war in 1954 and 1958; the near involvement of Burma in war with China because of C.I.A. support 1950 and since; Nationalist Chinese guerrillas located in northern Burma; story of Mossadegh's overthrow in Iran, 1953; overthrow of the Arbenz government, Guatemala, 1954; how the neutralist government in Laos was overthrown, 1958 and 1960, and the inside story of the Cuban invasion.

The Cook story disclosed the activities of a U. S. Agency which apparently has operated, and still is operating independently of the Congress, without any fiscal control by the General Accounting Office, often in opposition to State Department foreign policies and with little, often no, control by the President.

It would be surprising if the Pentagon civilian heads were not "worrying" about the course events have taken, but it is even more surprising that they did not anticipate these dangerous results. The military is an authoritarian organization. The views of military leaders on active duty are not subject to question by their subordinates. This is proper and necessary, but political and social questions must be questioned, must be debated. It was for this reason that our leaders until quite recently have, and wisely so, limited active duty military personnel to the handling of matters pertaining to their chosen profession.

The policy-making and Mafia-like activities of the C.I.A. and the political and propaganda activities of the military are inconsistent and incompatible with the free society. Unless these activities are abolished, and soon, this nation will also join, in the opinion of this writer, the rapidly increasing ranks of the garrison state.

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